

Dublin, Sunday, Nov. 28. 1858

Dear Miss Weston - If you were to measure the
gratification your welcome letter gave me by my
promptness in replying to do you would make a
great mistake. You requested particularly to know about
George Thompson & my attempt to stir you on this
point led to a part of the delay, for you knew as George
mistakes Garrison, Emma Weston & other great people by
a profound horror of the noble art of penmanship; so
much so, indeed, that in his best days, he generally
lost or forgot any letter he received. Accordingly I got
no answer from him - indeed, I hardly expected it -
but as I also took the precaution to write to his son
in law Mr. Chapman (whom I have never seen though we
have had some correspondence now & then) I got for reply
because that Mr. Thompson had read my letter & hoped
to dictate an answer soon (the answer has never
arrived) but that his hands have not yet recovered
their power, although in most other respects he is
so far improved that he can walk about, converse,
&c. But I need not particularize, as I hope to
send you a cutting from a late Liberator which
was instantly sent by Chapman for publication &
contains much more information than his
short note to me.

I have not written to any of your "faction" this eve
so long as I was uncertain of your exact locality
and when people are moving from place to place they
are hardly at ease enough to be troubled with the
details of such a hard-earned body as I am, who
lead an ~~un~~ inevitable life & have little to tell
that is worth relating. Last June the weather being
fine & the country charming I was tempted to make
an offer for a very pretty place about seven miles
from our door. The house is old fashioned - but
sufficiently large and comfortable for our family. It
is amply supplied with out-uses of all kinds for
cows, sheep, horses, pigs & poultry & stands in the shade
of a ~~large~~ wooded corner of about ten or twelve acres
of land beautifully situated at the foot of a moun-
tain ~~about~~ some 1400 feet high & with view of the
sea & of a rich & diversified country. A very
nice garden is close to the house & the ground is
partly laid out with shady walks & little streams -
all quite pastoral. However although my offer
was accepted & we hoped to be in possession
immediately, six months have nearly elapsed
& we are not then yet owing to some difficulty
about the title by which the owner held part of
the ground. He is getting us out - & although I am
tired to my office - he is in any the better of
the business owing to the glorious difficulties &
uncertainties of the law. He was for a
length of time deluded by promises that in a
few days all would right & all ~~the~~ impediments re-
moved & you may imagine that we were kept in
great uncertainty & perplexity. I have at length
given up asking & am resignedly drifting down the

Will you remember me very kindly to my friend Lucia of Ancona & share friends
attention I often think of
When ever you find me again be sure to tell me about the "Clergy" - how are they & their fine boys

stream of events. — Then another round of a more
interesting & a far more satisfactory nature has lately
occurred in our family, which has taken up my
time & thoughts a good deal. I mean the marriage
of my elder sister Maria Waring, whose name is
I doubt not familiar to your sister Caroline as a
steady & generous contributor to the Boston Bazaar
for many years past — indeed since 1840 when she
accompanied a whole troop of Willb. to the Anti
Slavery Convention in London. She first became per-
sonally acquainted with Garrison, Rogers, James
& Lucretia Mott, Wendell Phillips & his wife &
many other abolitionists of improved taste & an ar-
dent sympathies went with them first with the British
& Foreign Society, an intimacy sprang up of
which nobody has been so much the better & gainer
as myself & since to it I owe the pleasure of knowing
you, and many others whom I like & respect the more
the longer I know them. My sister Maria is a tender
spirited, conscientious, strong willed young woman of
forty, whose hair has grown prematurely grey & who
has yet a remarkably youthful & sweet expression of
countenance, which, joined to an honest & generous dispo-
sition, has earned her the respect & good will of every
one who knows her or knows of her — although she
of a retiring disposition she is very few intimates. Her
husband is a medical practitioner (Dr James George Palmer)
somewhat though not much older than herself, and as

as a man much ~~rather~~ more generally known, &
just as much respected as she is. Although the
result of this marriage will be that she will be disown-
ed by the Quakers for marrying one not of the Society, &
for marrying in a manner contrary to their rules, &
although a majority of her own relations are rigid
Quakers, I have not heard of a single objection - but
rather contrary general congratulations & wishes
for her happiness - a circumstance so extraordinary
that I have never heard of the like before. Indeed I
never knew of a marriage so generally approved of
by all who knew of it. You will excuse this piece
of family gossip partly because it is ^{so} very interesting
to me that I could refrain telling you of it & partly
that the lady has done more for the cause with
which your family is identified, & accordingly has
means than any other contributors of our associat-
ion on this side of the Atlantic.

Your sister Caroline speaks of writing to me when I left
Rome - but the letter never came & I only mention the
matter now to say that I never received, so grateful
at the moment for I know what a hardworking woman
she is & ~~how~~ much like the fly wheel of a steam engine
that if she stands still the whole economy now shifts
the presides is paralyzed also. I am confident that
I have her good wishes & friendly recollections & this
presumption is in itself a great pleasure

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About five months since my son Richard - my
second son, about 23 years old, was seized with a
determination to gratify a desire to which he
had entertained from childhood to visit Australia
and unadvisedly, as it were, paid his passage, & gave
him enough to bring him home in case he wished to
return speedily & off he sailed in the "Morning Light"
a very fine powerful vessel which was chosen for the
voyage by his elder brother who had been in Australia
for nearly two years & was my chief assistant
in my business. He did not - I mean Richard
did not go in search of health nor yet with any
definite purpose to seek his fortune - but just to see
~~seek his fortune~~ the world. Why any body should go
to such a matter of fact country as a holiday English
country for such a purpose I don't understand. I would
much rather go somewhere else - but there is no
accounting for tastes & the probable explanation is
that it is a kind of inland which sends the youth
out to foreign parts which their fathers & grandfathers
had no more notion of visiting than they had of
going to the moon. We have not heard from him
since he left us, except that when she was about 6
weeks out the ship was spoken with. However in about
a fortnight we hope for a letter informing us of his
arrival. - I write in a back drawing room -
through the folding door I hear the voices of some
young ladies - callers in - whom I may as well tell you
are lineal descendants of Judge Fell, one of the
English judges in the time of the Commonwealth, &
whose wife after his death married George Fox the
founder of Quakerism. She was a fine old lady, & died
in the odour of sanctity in the year 1709, aged 88. These

Mr Shackleton has another feather in their cap. for their
great-great-grandfather Abraham Shackleton was the
teacher or tutor of the great famous of political phi-
losophers, Edmund Burke, at Ballitore where their
father still lives - and their great-grandfather Richard
was Burke's school-fellow, correspondent & beloved friend
as long as he lived.

As to Mrs Chapman, proud of substituting a money
collection for the Boston Bazaar, although there is no doubt
that the majority of opinion is opposed to it, I think
it likely it will be successful in raising more money
this year at least than the Bazaar would have brought
in - But if it does, it will have been at the cost of
great & exhausting labors to your noble sister, whose
health & strength are too precious to the cause to be
rashly risked - & it may be difficult to continue such
exertions in future. As I correspond with some who
take different views on this subject I know that the
result is looked on by me here as at least a very
doubtful experiment. However the cause is not un-
indebted to any of its supporters, than to Mrs Chapman
and the ability, energy & zeal which have already
afforded so much may be trusted to carry out her
plans to a successful issue. I am sorry to find
that owing to Mrs Phillips failing health her husband
is obliged to withdraw himself almost entirely from
active efforts and that many others of the chief
abolitionists have been suffering from the
same cause. I understand that S. J. May
may be shortly looked for in Italy where he
will not be long in finding his rest.

The late cloud was a fine sight here when the clouds would allow us to see it. But you know we are in a moist, misty sky - and we have not above a dozen days in the whole year such as are common in the United States or in Rome. What a grand object it must have been in the blue Italian sky.

Last evening some friends were here, each with a number of stereoscopic views of Rome - perhaps to his own collection - I have a goodly number too, and then I had a glimpse of many localities that have an interest far more greater than for any of the company. I think they were nearly all those of the London Stereoscopic Company and of an excellence which I could be difficult to surpass. For buildings, ruins & long galleries nothing can surpass the wonderful reality of the stereoscope. Landscapes want the indefinable charm of colors & the perspective there is admirable the dingy brown or drab tints are a poor substitute for richer shades of nature.

How very much you will enjoy the opportunity of intercourse with Mrs. Browning, the greatest poetess of our age - altho I wish for her own sake & for mine that she would polish ~~it~~ somewhat more & that she would take some pains to clarify her meaning. Mrs. Webb is a great admirer of hers & I have a particular regard & respect for her on this account. Still I regard Alfred, Martineau as a much more wonderful & admirable & a much greater woman.

When Miss Hunt appears on your horizon I
will be obliged by your telling her that I am her
perpetual debtor for her kindness in Florence.
If she had been my sister she could not have
been more so. I thank her abundance & freedom
I would not have enjoyed my visit to the
City of Flowers one half so much but have had
nearly such a pleasant recollection of that time.

I am glad you say the Athenaeum should
be glad to know if you would write for a political
paper occasionally. I thought it would find
its way to you across France or how it should
be sent. All our papers of any note except
those which are merely Romish in their sym-
pathies & are devoids common of L. R. are
full of comments on the Trial & conduct
of Count Montalembert. His sentence to six
months imprisonment & 2000 francs fine for
an article which nobody in England would
imagine was amenable to any penalty. The
deeds I fear the more I am thankful for my
British citizenship. Is it not glorious that
the Democrats are so thoroughly defeated for
the present — But what will come of it?
for I hope little from politics for our cause.

But I must stop — I hope you will all take
this as my salutation & believe me ever
Yours affectionately & gratefully

Rich D Webb

Ms. A. 9. 2. 29. 60